

In the Beginning, the Story of Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:3

with Rockey's Thoughts, October 11, 2020

Outline

- I. Creation of the Heavens and the Earth, Gen 1:1-2:3.
 - A. First day: the matrix of the universe, earth and light are created, Gen 1:1-5.
 - B. Second day: the firmament is created, Gen 1:6-8.
 - C. Third day: dry land and seas are separated, plants are created, Gen 1:9-13.
 - D. Fourth day: the Sun, Moon, stars and other lights created, Gen 1:14-19.
 - E. Fifth day: sea creatures and birds created, Gen 1:20-23.
 - F. Sixth day: land creatures and mankind created, Gen 1:24-31.
 - G. Seventh day: God Rested, Gen 2:1-3.

The History of Creation (Genesis 1:1-2:3)

1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was without form¹, and void²; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering³ over the face of the waters.

3 Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. **4** And God saw the light, that it was **good**; and God divided the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the **first day**.

6 Then God said, “Let there be a firmament⁴ in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.” **7** Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. **8** And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the **second day**.

9 Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. **10** And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was **good**.

11 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. **12** And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was **good**. **13** So the evening and the morning were the **third day**.

14 Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; **15** and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. **16** Then God made two great lights:

1 Without form: Strong's Hebrew 8414 תהו Tohu (to'-hoo) - Tidal. From an unused root meaning to lie waste; a desolation (of surface), i.e. Desert; figuratively, a worthless thing; adverbially, in vain -- confusion, empty place, without form, nothing, (thing of) nought, vain, vanity, waste, wilderness.

2 Void: Strong's Hebrew 922 בֹּהוּ Bohu (bo'-hoo) - emptiness, void. From an unused root (meaning to be empty); a vacuity, i.e. (superficially) an undistinguishable ruin -- emptiness, void.

3 Hovering: Strong's Hebrew 7363, רָחַף Rachaph (raw-khaf) - flutter, move, shake. A primitive root; to brood; by implication, to be relaxed -- flutter, move, shake.

4 Firmament: Strong's Hebrew 7549, רָקִיעַ raqia (raw-kee'-ah) - an extended surface, expanse. From raqa'; properly, an expanse, i.e. The firmament or (apparently) visible arch of the sky – firmament.

In the Beginning, the Story of Creation

the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. **17** God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, **18** and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was **good**. **19** So the evening and the morning were the **fourth day**.

20 Then God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.” **21** So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was **good**. **22** And God **blessed** them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” **23** So the evening and the morning were the **fifth day**.

24 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind”; and it was so. **25** And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was **good**.

26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion⁵ over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **27** So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28** Then God **blessed** them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue⁶ it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

29 And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. **30** Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food”; and it was so. **31** Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was **very good**. So the evening and the morning were the **sixth day**.

2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. **2** And on the **seventh day** God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. **3** Then God **blessed** the seventh day and sanctified⁷ it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Rockey's Thoughts

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” This is perhaps the most important statement in the Bible. If God had not created the universe and all it contains, then nothing else would exist or matter. So there it is right up front. BAM! We are part of God's creation. It is God

5 Dominion: Strong's Hebrew 7287, רָדָה, radah (raw-daw') – to have dominion, rule, dominate. Make to have dominion, prevail against, reign, bear. A primitive root; to tread down, i.e. Subjugate; specifically, to crumble off -- (come to, make to) have dominion, prevail against, reign, (bear, make to) rule,(-r, over), take.

6 Subdue: Strong's Hebrew 3533, קָבַשׁ kabash (kaw-bash') - to subdue, bring into bondage. Bring into bondage, force, keep under, subdue, bring into subjection. A primitive root; to tread down; hence, negatively, to disregard; positively, to conquer, subjugate, violate -- bring into bondage, force, keep under, subdue, bring into subjection.

7 Sanctified: Strong's Hebrew 6942, קָדַשׁ qadash (kaw-dash') - to be set apart or consecrated . Appoint, bid, consecrate, dedicate, defile, hallow, be holy. A primitive root; to be (causatively, make, pronounce or observe as) clean (ceremonially or morally) -- appoint, bid, consecrate, dedicate, defile, hallow, (be, keep) holy(-er, place), keep, prepare, proclaim, purify, sanctify(-ied one, self), X wholly.

In the Beginning, the Story of Creation

who has given us life. What do we owe to the one who has made our life possible? That is the age old question. It makes it easy to see why those who don't want God to have any part in their lives work so hard to deny the creation.

God created the universe and all that it contains in just six days. A rationalist would say that this is impossible, that the universe is millions or billions of years old. After all, they can choose any length of time that they need. I've watched their estimates of the age of the universe grow exponentially over the course of my lifetime. One proof that is often cited is the amount of time that it has taken for light to travel from distant stars. They assume that everything has always been as we see it now. The Bible anticipates these scoffers and tells us in 2 Peter 3:3-4, "Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming?' For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." This can be countered by a simple knowledge of mathematical functions that allows us to model a curve that starts out at a limit of infinity, drops nearly vertical and then at the knee of the curve, which we can make as sharp as we like, turns into a nearly horizontal line for the rest of time. This means that at the point of creation, light and time may have been nearly instantaneous and when God had done all that he needed to do, then they turned the knee of the curve and became the near constant speed that we experience today. Most of us have been taught that the speed of light is a constant. As an engineer, I know that this is good enough for engineering work, but the truth is that light is slowing down. It is not slowing down enough to effect our lives, but it is slowing down enough to be measured. Time is a function of the speed of light and mass. If the speed of light slows down, then so does time. Does this prove anything? No it doesn't. It simply gives us a possibility. Who was there when God created the heavens and the earth? Who was an eye witness to the creation? Only God. We can choose to believe the testimony of God, the only one who was there, or we can believe the guesses and theories of the rationalists. I choose to believe the testimony of God. I think He is an unimpeachable witness. So then, let us look at the six days of creation and the sabbath day when God took His rest.

First Day, Sunday (Gen 1:1-5): God created the universe and all that it contains. This includes the entire mass and matrix of the universe including mathematics and the laws of physics. Out of all creation our attention is focused on the Earth. It is covered by water and it is in darkness. The Spirit of God is hovering over the face of the water. Intuitively, I see in this picture all of the materials gathered to complete the job of creation. The Holy Spirit is at the ready to do the work of creation. It is like God is management saying what is to be done and the Holy Spirit is the labor force that will execute the vision and make the creation come to life. The quivering of the Holy Spirit reminds me of stereo speakers vibrating as they turn electrical pulses into sound. As an engineer, I'm aware of many amazing things that frequencies can produce. Is it possible that the Holy Spirit used frequencies to mold the creation? Can we imagine the orchestral sound as God's Spirit changed a void and formless Earth into the amazing planet that God has blessed us with? There would be themes, movements, melodies, counter melodies, harmony, rhythm and even syncopation. I see God as the conductor and the Holy Spirit as the orchestra producing the sounds that like a 3D printer produced all the wonders of creation. What did it sound like? What did it look like? I can only imagine.

Next God created light. It was a special creation separate from any light source. A rationalist would say that light cannot exist without a source. However, God is a source of light. Speaking of the New Jerusalem, Revelation 21:23 says: "The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light." Light is unique in the creation. The laws of physics

In the Beginning, the Story of Creation

define the behavior of electromagnetic waves and mass particles, but light can behave as a particle or as a wave and it doesn't do so randomly, but exactly when either is needed. Finally, God created time by separating the light from the darkness. The period of darkness (evening) and the period of light (morning) made the first day. The pattern of darkness to light is repeated many times in the Bible. Two places we see this are in Ephesians 5:8, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." and 1 Peter 2:9, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." So we see that when people live in sin under the law they are figuratively in darkness, and when they come into the light they are living as saints in the grace of the Lord. The darkness to light pattern given on the first day of creation also foreshadows the Old Covenant of the Law by which sinners will be judged and the New Covenant of Grace by which God's saints are redeemed.

Second Day, Monday (Gen 1:6-8): At the end of the first day the Earth is totally covered by water. I can imagine how dense and how dark the fog was on the surface of the water. On the Second Day God made the expanse of the sky and separated the waters in the sky from the waters on the surface of the earth. Intuitively I take this to mean that God made the water cycle of evaporation, condensation and precipitation that waters the Earth. In doing so, God took away the suffocating fog that was so thick that it would have given all of us pneumonia. It also lets us see the beauty of the sky, the stars and the creation.

Third Day, Tuesday (Gen 1:9-13): On the third day God raised up some areas of the ocean's floor and sunk other parts lower. This caused the continents and islands to appear separate from the seas. Then God created all of the flora that abounds on the earth. The plants that are listed are grass, herb and fruit trees. Apparently, all of the flora created on this day will be beneficial to the fauna that God will create on the fifth and sixth days. There is no mention of nuisance or waste plants at this time. Each variety of flora was created according its own kind. This is where God created the laws of genetics. The genetic information in DNA is a three out of four self correcting code. That means there is quad redundancy protecting the true reproduction for each plant and animal species. If one of the four varies from the other three, then it will be corrected to match the others. In engineering we used this principle with critical systems. They were given triple redundancy with a two out of three vote to pass the threshold. God went an order of magnitude greater to protect the genetic code so each species would not change, but continue according to its kind.

Fourth Day, Wednesday (Gen 1:14-19): On the fourth day God created all of the lights that are visible in the sky and many more that we can't see with the naked eye. Time was created when God separated the light from the darkness and made the first day. Now God sets the rhythms we experience in life: days, seasons, and years. The orbit of the moon around the earth with its waxing and waning gives us the rhythm of the lunar month. The rhythm of the week was made by the six days of creation and the seventh day when God rested. The lights in the sky were also made for signs. We know that signs in the sky are predicted before the Lord Jesus Christ's return. The ancients also watched for signs in the sky like the magi who followed a star to the Christ child. We have lost so much of the ancient's knowledge when conquerors destroyed great libraries. The modernist tends to ignore anything they do not understand or they relegate it to the status of mythology. We need to open our minds because there is so much that was known by the ancients and we need to recover this lost knowledge.

In the Beginning, the Story of Creation

Fifth Day, Thursday (Gen 1:20-23): On the fifth day, God created all aquatic creatures and birds. Many believe that reptiles were also created on the fifth day. There are at least two reasons for this. First is the genetic similarity shared by birds and reptiles. Second is that there are aquatic reptiles, amphibian reptiles, reptiles that live on the land and, finally, winged reptiles that may not have been able to truly fly but could at least glide through the air. So the reptiles don't truly fit the description of a land only class of animals.

Sixth Day, Friday (Gen 1:24-31): On the sixth day, God created all of the land fauna. Then, last of all, God created mankind. Of all the plants and animals that God created, only mankind is said to be created in the image of God. We know that God is spiritual and not material. He revealed Himself in many different forms as recorded in the Bible. Yet in some way mankind is like God and even called the Sons of God, just like the angels. Mankind is given dominion to rule over the earth, to fill it and subdue it. Finally, we see that God gave the flora to be food for mankind and all of the animals. Out of all that God created, it was only mankind that God spoke to and it was only mankind that God gave authority to rule over the creation.

We know that people may sin against God. If they repent and submit to God, He will make them righteous by the shed blood of His only begotten son the Lord Jesus Christ. People may also sin against each other and the creation. It was made plain when mankind was created on the sixth day that they were to rule over and subdue the earth. God made mankind to steward His creation on the Earth. There are many examples throughout history of people in ignorance or greed causing damage or even destroying a part of the environment. God made the earth to provide for people, all of the fauna and the flora. If people obey God, they care for God's creation and make it better so it will provide in abundance. A survey of scripture shows that God considers wilderness to be cursed because it does not provide for people. God wants His creation to provide for the people He created. I believe this goes beyond just the necessities of life like food, raiment and shelter. It also includes recreation and other blessings that give people pleasure and happiness in the lives God has given them.

Seventh Day, Saturday (Gen 2:1-3): On the seventh day, God rested from all of His work of creation. This sets the pattern and the rhythm for the week, six days of work and a day of rest. Intuitively this sets the pattern for mankind's life of work and then entering into God's rest when physical life has ended. The concept of entering into rest is a recurring way of referring to heaven throughout the remainder of the Bible. The seventh day, the day of rest, is the only day that God blessed and sanctified.

Surveying all seven days of the creation story, we see that God said His creation was good seven times. The number seven as the number of God and completion is seen again and again throughout the Bible. However, God did not declare creation good on every day of the week. He only said it was good on five of the days: Sunday, twice on Tuesday (the day of double goodness), Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. I guess that not even God could find anything good to say about Monday. On Friday God said that the creation of the land animals was good and later also pronounced that all He had created was very good. Saturday is the only day that God blessed and set apart as a designated day of rest. I believe that most would agree that a day of rest, a day they don't have to work, is a blessing. God did give a blessing on two other days, but not to the day itself. On Thursday God blessed the birds and sea creatures. On Friday God blessed mankind. God commanded all of the fauna that he created to be fruitful and to multiply. This suggests that a limited number were created of each species and they needed to multiply to fill the earth.

In the Beginning, the Story of Creation

“The time has come, the walrus said, to talk of many things.” Now the time has come for me to address the elephant in the room. What about the theory of evolution? Many years ago, before I ever studied engineering, I had a conversation with an older brother that included the subject of evolution. My brother's field of expertise is physics and at the time he was working as a nuclear research scientist. My older brother made the statement that most of the scientists he knew rejected the theory of evolution because it violated the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics. That seemed to me to be a rather shocking statement at the time. Even though I made good grades in school, I must admit that I don't remember anything useful from my high school physics and chemistry classes. It wasn't until later when I studied them while learning engineering that they became useful to me. I learned that the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics is the law of entropy. In general, matter and energy are conserved in every process. Entropy is a little bit of energy that is lost and not conserved. It is the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics and entropy that tells us the universe will eventually run out of energy and be completely dead at the temperature of absolute zero. In practical terms, it tells us that everything is trending toward disorder. It is the reason why our mothers never had to tell us to mess up our rooms. Evolution says that things are becoming more orderly and breaks the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics. To put it in a gross and somewhat humorous way, to believe in evolution is to believe that a tornado could go through a building materials store and leave behind a trailer park. The 2nd Law of Thermodynamics is not the only scientific law that the theory of evolution breaks. There is also the Law of Biogenesis that states that life is only reproduced by life and the laws of genetics that state that life reproduces true to its kind. After more than one hundred and fifty years, evolution remains a theory. With all of the searching that has ensued since Darwin proposed the theory of evolution, the missing link between species has not been found. Instead, the fossil record has proven the opposite. The species appear suddenly and together; they have remained constant and true to their kind. There are other laws of science and mathematics that the theory of evolution violates. Many books have been written on this subject.

Can I prove the creation? No, I cannot. I choose to believe it by faith. I wasn't there to witness the creation and neither was anyone else, except for God. I consider Him to be an unimpeachable witness. Many people will continue to believe the unproven theory of evolution in spite of the fact that it breaks many scientific laws. They have been told that it is scientific and creation is a myth of religion. Most don't check the facts, they just choose to believe the Theory of Evolution in faith. It frees them from the necessity of answering the age old question: “What do we owe to the one who created us and gave us life?” That brings us back to where we began with Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” It is perhaps the most important statement ever made. For without this statement, nothing else would matter or even exist.